

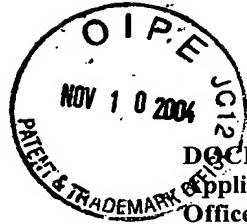
REMARKS

Claims 3, 12-15, and 18 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 16-17, and 19-38 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 19 have been amended, and claims 28-38 are newly presented. No new matter has been entered with the claim amendments. Claims 20-24 and 27 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-15, 18, 19, 25, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by French 2221829. Independent claim 11 has been amended to recite “wherein the mating portion consists of a first discrete engaging area defined by a first bend and a second discrete engaging area defined by a second bend for engaging a wall of a circuit board through hole.” Thus, the amendment clarifies that the discrete engaging areas are defined by some type of directional change or bend. The examiner states that item 19 in Figure 4 of the reference can be considered a second discrete engaging area. However, item 19 is shown as a straight tail portion, and is not believed to create a discrete engaging area as that term is recited in claim 11. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection directed to claim 11 and those claims depending therefrom.

Notwithstanding the Section 102 rejection above, the examiner noted that claims 3, 4, 10, 16 and 17 contain patentable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the features originally recited in claim 3, and claim 3 accordingly has been canceled. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all of the features of original claim 1 from which it depended. In response to the objection directed to claim 10, Applicants have clarified the claim to now recite “a second mating portion distally located from the mating portion for a soldered connection with a second circuit board.” Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 25 are in condition for allowance. Since new claims 28-32 depend from claim 10, they are also in condition for allowance.

New claims 33-37 each recites a contact comprising “a contact leg including a mating portion for engagement with a circuit structure through hole, the mating portion comprising a deflectable beam for imparting a normal force onto a wall of a circuit structure through hole, wherein the deflectable beam includes a shoulder region for limiting insertion depth of the



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mating portion, and a hinge formed in the shoulder region.” New claim 38 recites a contact comprising “a contact leg including a mating portion for engagement with a circuit structure through hole, the mating portion comprising a deflectable beam for imparting a normal force onto a wall of a circuit structure through hole, wherein the deflectable beam is bowed or angled outwardly with respect to a longitudinal contact axial line, and wherein the deflectable beam includes a shoulder region for limiting insertion depth of the mating portion.” The French reference does not disclose or suggest the features in new claims 33-38.

In view of the above amendments and discussion, all of the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

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